

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 /104 W

-----035267 240909Z /11

O 240656Z JUL 78 ZDK
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2630
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02988

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP CONSIDERATION OF
VORSTER RESPONSE ON WALVIS BAY

REF: A) PRETORIA 4178 B)PRETORIA 4179
C) PRETORIA 4180

1. THE CONTACT GROUP MET AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL SUNDAY
NIGHT JULY 23 TO CONSIDER VORSTER'S RESPONSE
CONCERNING THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION (REF A). THE
GROUP AGREED THAT THE FIVE SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED
TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION
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AS PRESENTLY DRAFTED WAS A CRUCIAL INGREDIENT IN
FRONTLINE AND SWAPO ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, AND
IT CANNOT NOW BE RENEGOTIATED. SIMILARLY,
A DECISION BY THE FIVE TO ABSTAIN WOULD JEOPARDIZE
AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE AND SURELY RESULT IN A RESOLUTION
FAR MORE OBJECTIONABLE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS. (THE
GROUP, INCLUDING THE UK, WAS APPALLED THAT SIR DAVID SCOTT

RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ABSTENTION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS*) ACCORDINGLY, WE INTEND TO PROCEED AS PLANNED WITH AN INFORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION MONDAY AFTERNOON JULY 24, ASSUMING THAT THE PRINCIPAL FRONTLINE ACTORS HAVE RETURNED FROM KHARTOUM. (SWAPO UN REPRESENTATIVE GURIRAB IS ALREADY HERE AND EXPECTS NUJOMA SHORTLY.) SOMETIME DURING THE DAY WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT CANDIDLY WITH CHONA AND SALIM IN THE HOPE OF DEVELOPING TACTICS WHICH MIGHT HELP REDUCE SOUTH AFRICAN IRE.

2. THE CONTACT GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT A RESPONSE FROM THE FIVE TO VORSTER'S LETTER SHOULD BE AGREED UPON ON AN URGENT BASIS. THE GROUP HAS PREPARED A DRAFT TEXT (CONTAINED PARA FOUR BELOW) TO BE DELIVERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN PRETORIA IN THE FORM OF A WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FIVE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. (WE HAVE NOTIFIED SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE EKSTEEN THAT A RESPONSE FROM THE FIVE MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING AND REQUESTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION PENDING THAT REPLY.)

3. COMMENT. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW MUCH OF VORSTER'S LETTER IS STATED SOLELY "FOR THE RECORD." WE HAVE RECOGNIZED ALL ALONG THAT PROVIDING HIM CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH A COPY OF THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION WOULD NECESSITATE SOUTH AFRICAN EXPRESSION OF OUTRAGE. WE HARDLY RELISH THE IDEA OF CALLING SOUTH AFRICA'S BLUFF, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN SOUTH AFRICAN FEAR OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IS CERTAINLY REDUCED BY THE SENATE'S SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE HELMS AMENDMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE CAN ONLY PROCEED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND HOPE THAT OUR SETTLEMENT EFFORT HAS PROGRESSED TO A STAGE WHERE THE SOUTH AFRICAN'S WOULD NOT WISH TO WRECK IT AND BRING UPON THEMSELVES THE INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE WHICH WOULD SURELY ENSUE. END COMMENT.

4. THE DRAFT TEXT OF THE MESSAGE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT.
THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FIVE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MESSAGE OF 23 JULY.

WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT STANDS BY THE PROPOSAL OF THE FIVE. AT THE SAME TIME ON THE SUBJECT OF WALVIS BAY WE NOTE WITH CONCERN THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST

EIGHTEEN MONTHS DOES NOT ACCORD IN SOME RESPECTS WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER OF 23 JULY. WE SHARE YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT WALVIS BAY IS A SEPARATE ISSUE FROM THE PROPOSAL OF THE FIVE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE IN NAMIBIA. WHILE FROM THE OUTSET WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH COULD NOT BE RESOLVED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PROPOSAL, WE HAVE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE ISSUE WOULD INEVITABLY ARISE.

THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION OF WHICH WE HAVE INFORMED YOU THROUGH YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK IS NOT A PART OF OUR PROPOSAL AND, AT OUR INSISTENCE, DOES NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE LEGAL QUESTION AND DOES NOT

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PREJUDICE YOUR LEGAL POSITION. IT IS OUR POSITION

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INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10 EA-10
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2631
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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THAT THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA. OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS WILL MAKE IT CLEAR IN THE STATEMENTS OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND BY OUR ACTIONS IN PURSUANCE OF THE RESOLUTION, THAT WE BELIEVE THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE IS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THAT IS OUR INTERPRETATION OF THE RESOLUTION AND PARTICULARLY OF OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TWO. THUS THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN THE LETTER FROM OUR FIVE HEADS OF STATE OR OF GOVERNMENT AND THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION.
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IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS WE INTEND TO PROCEED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH OUR PROPOSAL AS ALREADY INDICATED TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK. WE TRUST THAT THESE CLARIFICATIONS WILL ALLAY YOUR CONCERNS AND THAT TOGETHER WE MAY NOW MOVE FORWARD TO THE EARLY INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA. END TEXT.

5. WHEN THE ABOVE MESSAGE IS PASSED TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS, THEY SHOULD BE URGED ORALLY TO KEEP OUR EXCHANGES CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT TO PUBLISH VORSTER'S LETTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, WALVIS BAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 4
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP CONSIDERATION OF VORSTER RESPONSE ON WALVIS BAY
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE
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Review Markings:
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